



REPORT OF THE BOARD of HEALTH.

THE Board of Health for the town of Boston, are happy to have it in their power, this day, to announce to their fellow-citizens the result of one of the most complete experiments which perhaps has ever been made, to prove the efficacy of the Cow-Pox, as a preventive against the Small-Pox; and while they take the liberty to congratulate the public on this important discovery, they do earnestly recommend its introduction generally, and are confident that it will be the means of preserving themselves and adding to the happiness of millions.

The utmost care has been taken, during the experiments; and a detailed statement of facts are subjoined, for the gratification of every enquirer.

In June, 1801, Dr. JACKSON addressed a letter to the Board of Health, requesting their countenance in certain experiments which he contemplated making, to prove the efficacy of the Cow-Pox, as a preventive against the Small-Pox; to which application the avocations of the Board would not permit that attention which the plan proposed by Dr. JACKSON required.

In June, 1802, Dr. WATERHOUSE made a similar application, accompanied with a very minute history of that disorder, from himself, and also various documents in proof of its utility, from Societies in New-York and elsewhere, who had associated for the purpose of making experiments similar to those proposed to be made by Dr. W. by which it appeared, that the public in those places, were deriving incalculable benefits by a pretty general inoculation. About this time the Small-Pox was raging in the family of Mr. HOLDEN, Fifth-Street, and three persons out of five, under the care of the Board of Health, had died.—The Cow-pox had obtained much credit.

The Board of Health, deeply affected with the fatal ravages of the Small-pox, in the family before mentioned, and viewing their Institution as founded, under God, for the preservation of the health of their fellow-citizens; and believing, as they did, that this mild and safe disorder, "the Cow-Pox," might be substituted for that fatal and distressing one, the Small-pox, so that if generally adopted, completely to annihilate and blot it from the catalogue of human woes;—determined, under the influence of these considerations, to prove by experiments, to be made under their immediate observation, whether their faith in the efficacy of the Cow-pox was well founded or not.

With this view, the plan of the experiments proposed were published in the newspapers, for the consideration of their fellow citizens. The Secretary of the Board was also directed, in their name, to desire the assistance of Doctors LLOYD, DANFORTH, RAND, JEFFRIES, WARREN, JARVIS, and WATERHOUSE, who, agreeably to the invitation of the Board, met them at the Health-Office.—Various impediments presented themselves in carrying into effect the plan as published. It was alleged, that the distance of Rainsford's-Island from town, would prevent the attendance of the gentlemen concerned, as often as would be requisite; and to make them in town, it would be necessary to have the permission of the town, in town-meeting, it being contrary to law to inoculate with the Small-pox without it. It was therefore determined to apply for this privilege; and the town being assembled for that purpose, it was objected to, on the grounds that it would alarm the country, and injure the trade of the town.—After much debate, it was voted by the town—"That the Board have power to make the experiments proposed, without the limits of the town; and to take up suitable buildings, &c. for that purpose." It was with much difficulty a place could be obtained, comporting with the vote of the town. But started in the pursuit, the object, the happiness of mankind, the Board was determined that no difficulties which perseverance could surmount, should divert them from their purpose.

At length Mr. WILLIAMS gave permission to erect a small building on Noddle's Island, and to make the proposed experiments there. Thus provided, on the 16th day of August, nineteen children, viz.

DANIEL SCOTT, Chambers-Street.
ALMARIN CLARKE, Cornhill.
JOHN SILSBY, Prince-Street.

OZIAS GOODWIN, }
GEO. GOODWIN, } Chamber-Street.
SAMUEL WATTS, }
SAMUEL RICHIE, }
ROBERT WILLIAMS, } Oak Lane.
HENRY WILLIAMS, }
REUBEN LORING, } Willis's Lane.
THOMAS TRUMAN, }
E. L. TRUMAN, } Dagget's Alley.
JOHN WYER, }
SETH KING, } Market-Square.
GEORGE FOBES, }
WILLIAM AUSTIN, } Fifth-Street.
JOHN HARRIS, }
THOMAS SPEAR, } Friend's-Street.
WM. GREENE, } Hanover-Street.

Were inoculated with the Cow-pox, at the Health-Office, in presence of the Board, and of a number of gentlemen invited. The physicians who attended were Drs. Lloyd, Rand, Jeffries, Warren, Waterhouse, Welsh, J. C. Howard, and T. Danforth; and the children went through the disorder to the satisfaction of the gentlemen physicians, and of this Board.

Fresh Small-pox matter being obtained, through the politeness of Dr. WALKER, the proprietor of the Small-pox Hospital at Falmouth—on the 9th of November, twelve of the children before named, together with George Bartlett, son of Dr. Bartlett, of Charlestown, who had the Cow-pox two years since, were inoculated at the Hospital erected on Noddle's Island, with the Small-pox, from the matter obtained from Dr. WALKER—and at the same time two children of Mr. Christopher Clark, of Hinchman's Lane, viz. Thomas and John, who had never had either the Cow-pox or Small-pox, were also inoculated with the latter; and in the proper time the arms (of the two Clarks) became inflamed—the symptomatic fever, and usual appearances attending the Small-pox, appeared—and finally pustules to the amount of about 500 on one, and 150 on the other, put forth and mattered, as has been invariably the case in all instances of the small-pox within our knowledge. From these two children, thus affected with the Small-pox, fresh matter was taken, and the thirteen children before named, who were totally unaffected with the first inoculation with Small-pox, were again inoculated on the 21st day of November; and the other seven children, who had the Cow-pox as first mentioned, were also inoculated with fresh matter from the Clarks; and the whole remained together in the same house, in the same room, and often in the same beds, without producing the least appearance of the Small-pox, either by uncommon soreness of the arm, head-ach, the least degree of fever or pustules—and this we certify to the public, having daily visited the Hospital ourselves, and made the most critical observations and inquiries, which are confirmed by the report of the physicians who attended the experiments (hereto annexed) and therefore are confident in affirming, That the Cow-pox is a complete preventive against all the effects of the Small-pox upon the human system.

THE PHYSICIANS' REPORT.

WITH a view of ascertaining the efficacy of the Cow-pox in preventing the Small-pox, and of diffusing through this country the knowledge of such facts as might be established by a course of experiments instituted for the purpose, and thereby removing any prejudices, which might possess the public mind on the subject, the Board of Health of the town of Boston, in the course of the last Summer, came to a determination to invite a number of Physicians to cooperate with them on this important design; and with a liberality becoming enlightened citizens, erected a Hospital on Noddle's Island, for carrying it into execution.—Accordingly, on the 16th of August last, nineteen boys, whose names are subjoined, were inoculated for the Cow-pox at the office, and in presence of the above-mentioned Board, with fresh, transparent Cow-pox matter, taken from the arms of a number of patients then under this disease. These all received and passed through the disease to the complete satisfaction of every person present, conversant with the disease.

On the 9th of November, twelve of the above children, together with one other, GEORGE BARTLETT by name, who had passed through the Cow-pox two years before, were inoculated for the Small-Pox on Noddle's-Island, with matter taken from a Small-pox patient in the most infectious stage of that disease. The arms of these lads became inflamed at the incisions, in proportion to the various irritability of their habits, but not to a degree greater than what any other foreign, virulent matter would have produced. The Small-pox matter excited no general indisposition whatever, through the whole progress of the experiments, though the children took no medicines, but were indulged in their usual modes of living and exercise; and were all lodged promiscuously in one room.

At the same time and place, in order to prove the activity of the Small-pox matter, which had been used, two lads, who had never had either the Small-pox or Cow-pox, were inoculated from the same matter. At the usual time, the arms of these two patients exhibited the true appearance of the Small-pox. A severe eruptive fever ensued, and produced a plentiful crop of Small-pox pustules, amounting by estimation, to more than five hundred in one, and two hundred in the other.

When these pustules were at the highest state of infection, the thirteen children before mentioned, were inoculated a second time, with recent matter, taken from the pustules, which said matter was likewise inserted into the arms of the seven other children, who were absent at the first inoculation.—They were all exposed, most of them for twenty days, to infection, by being in the same room with the two boys, who had the Small-pox, so that, if susceptible of this disease, they must inevitably have received it, if not by inoculation, in the natural way.

Each of the children was examined by the Subscribers, who were individually convinced from the inspection of their arms, their perfect state of health and exemption from every kind of eruption or their bodies, that the Cow-pox prevented their taking the Small-pox, and they do therefore consider the result of the experiment as satisfactory evidence, that the Cow-pox is a complete security against the Small-pox.

JAMES LLOYD.
SAMUEL DANFORTH.
ISAAC RAND.
JOHN JEFFRIES.
JOHN WARREN.
THOMAS WELSH.
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.
JOSIAH BARTLETT.
JOHN FLEET, JUN.
JOHN C. HOWARD.
THOMAS DANFORTH.

Charlestown, December 15, 1802.

This may certify, that my son, GEORGE BARTLETT, at the age of eight years, was inoculated for the Cow-pox, on the 11th day of November, 1800; that the appearance of his arm, and the symptoms, so fully corresponded with the plates and publications I had then seen, as to convince me, and others of my medical friends, that he had the disease.

JOSIAH BARTLETT,
Fellow of the Mass. Med. Society.
To the President and Members of the Board of Health,
BOSTON.

Boston, Dec. 8th, 1802.

We, SUSANNA TRUMAN and LUCY LEARNED, nurses attending on the experiments corroborating the efficacy of the Cow-pox—do certify that there was not the least sickness or appearance of Small-pox among any of the children who were subjects of the same, during their stay at Noddle's-Island, excepting the two boys, THOMAS and JOHN CLARKE, who had never had the Cow-pox, and were inoculated for the Small-pox, with a view to render the experiment more complete.

SUSANNA TRUMAN.
LUCY LEARNED.

Health-Office, Boston, Dec. 16, 1802.

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R. GARDNER, Secretary.

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As given

May 10

1862

21 Miscellaneous for the CHAM

12

Monthly salary to the
teacher.

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